

# Points on Buying a Horse



SHOWING THE MEANS BY WHICH  
UN SOUNDNESS AND FAULTS MAY  
BE DISCOVERED

ALSO THE TRICKS AND METHODS  
FREQUENTLY USED TO EFFECT  
SALES

TOGETHER WITH AN ELABORATE  
RESUME OF THE HORSES QUALI  
TIES FITTING HIM FOR SPECIAL  
PURPOSES

By

Stephen Van Rensselaer

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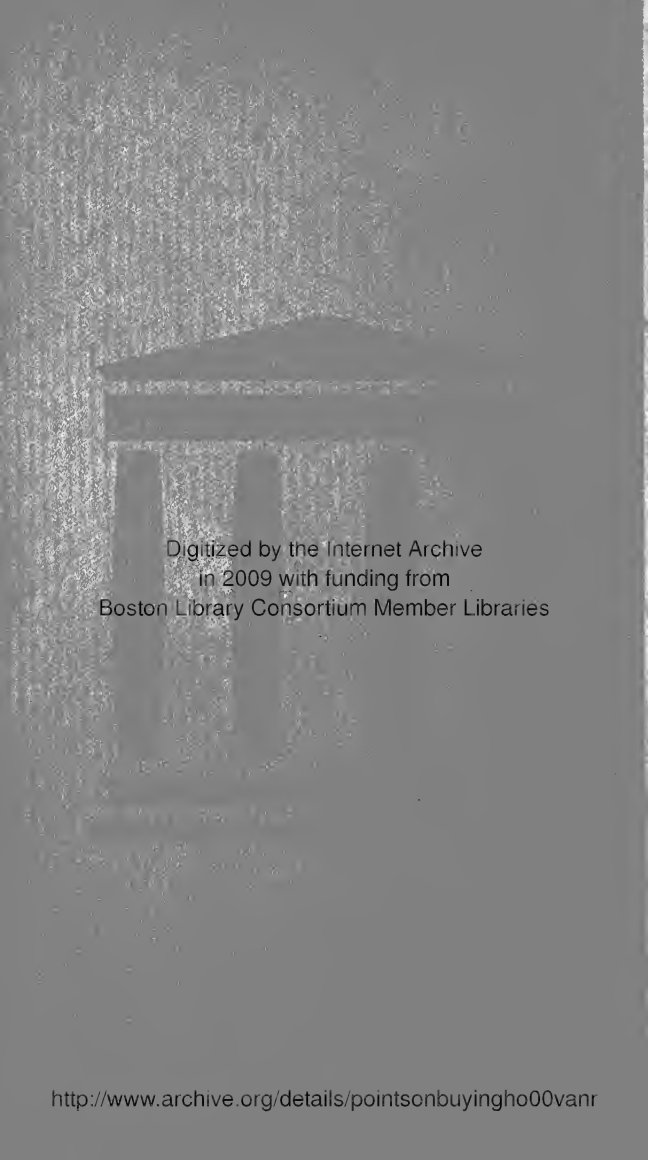
Stephen Van Rensselaer

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## DEDICATION.

To E. R. S.—A highly esteemed friend  
this little book is affectionately dedi-  
cated.

The Author.



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SIMON H. ROLLINSON

COUNSELLOR AT LAW

National Bank Building

ORANGE, N. J.

May 1, 1904.

Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq.,  
West Orange, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your request, I have prepared and submit herewith, a brief synopsis of the law governing breach of warranty and fraud in horse sales.\* I have not gone exhaustingly into the subject as space forbids. I have avoided technical terms and have endeavored to express myself so as to be easily understood by those not accustomed to legal phraseology.

Yours very truly,  
SIMON H. ROLLINSON.

\* Embraced in Chapter XI.

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## PREFACE.

The horse is a noble and useful animal, yet very little is known about him, as regards good and bad points, by the average person. In consequence, when buying for the first time, the buyer must either enlist the services of a friend who is a judge of a horse, employ a veterinary surgeon, or blindly bid in a horse at auction on general appearances and trust to luck that he will turn out satisfactorily.

Such persons seem to forget or entirely disregard the fact that horses when offered for sale, especially by dealers, are brought to the best possible condition, perhaps having been doctored for weeks prior to sale, and possibly when they pass into their owners' hands will steadily decline and be almost useless.

My aim throughout has been towards brevity and conciseness, and to set forth the facts without the use of technical terms, and while I do not anticipate that this little book will fill the proverbial long felt want, yet I feel it should be of use to others than "horse jockies."

Of course the remarks which follow, especially on the tricks of the trade, are for the most part applicable to low dealers only .

And while it may appear that there is an undue risk in purchasing a horse on account of the many ailments and diseases to which I refer, as a matter of fact, a horse afflicted with a small percentage of them would indeed be an object of curiosity and pity! Naturally one might be deterred from buying, knowing the many things to look out for, but close and careful examination and bearing in mind the diseases, the indications and seats of the same, coupled with a little *horse sense* should suffice to enable the selection of a useful horse .

Stephen Van Rensselaer.

West Orange, N. J., May, 1904.



## CHAPTER I.

### The Horse in the Stall.

Perhaps the most important time to closely watch the horse you think of buying is when he is at ease in the stall, as much can be found out then. If he is of a cranky or mean disposition, he will show it; when being harnessed or saddled, by switching his tail, or stamping, biting or kicking, sometimes jamming you against the side of the stall, or refusing to take the bit, or even refusing to leave the stable without considerable coaxing; a poor horse to use in going for the doctor when your grandmother is dying.

A perfectly sound horse will seldom favor any leg, unless tired, so he should stand evenly on all fours. Notice if he is a cribber, which can generally be found out by looking at the front teeth, as they will be chipped off and uneven. If a "windsucker," this is a bad vice, for the horse is continually placing his head on the manger and drawing wind into the stomach; look for marks of a strap around the neck. At times a horse is so much addicted to this habit that when

removed to a box stall, where there is nothing to rest the head on, he will put his head against his foreleg.

Another habit is "weaving," rocking to and fro without moving hind quarters. Observe also if he "stands over," which is resting the heel of one hind foot on the front of the other, leaving depressions or scratches on hoof. When a horse is "*breeding spavins*," as it is termed, he will shift the weight from one hind foot to the other.

Dealers will rarely bandage a horse's legs unless necessary, as the marks of the bandages are evidences of weakness. However, in many private stables, the horse's legs are bandaged after exercise, rather as a matter of custom than of necessity. Trotters and horses doing fast work will generally be bandaged, not only to keep the ankles from swelling, but to strengthen them. So one must be guided by circumstances.

## CHAPTER II.

### The Trial.

When the horse is being harnesssed, notice if the groom uses any precautions. I have seen him give the horse a lump of sugar and afterwards ascertained that the horse was apt to balk when leaving the yard, or sometimes in the case of a very high strung and nervous horse, a lump of sugar with a few drops of some quieting drug had a wonderful effect in keeping him from jumping towards the sky. At all events this practice is never indulged in without some reason.

Insist upon driving yourself, and in spite of the trained groom's continuous desire to get back to his work (which is always in arrears when you are trying to find out whatever you can by a long drive) go out for a good drive, as it is the only way to judge of the horse's actions, manners and endurance, and ascertain if he shies or is easily frightened, and how he is bitted and trained. Some horses, while perfectly broken to a curb bit, will balk or behave badly with a snaffle bit, and vice versa. The same is true when being used with English or round collar, and a

Dutch or breast collar. It is well, therefore, to try both. A bad trick is bolting or kicking when the reins get caught under the tail, or when leaving or coming into the yard. If for saddle use, it is best to mount by yourself, as frequently a horse will rear up, plunge, back or jump around, if not held by the bridle. Bronchos and other horses often "buck," and send you over their heads in a heap, a very unpleasant occurrence when your best girl is watching. So it is best to let the groom ride him first and then you can see how the horse looks and acts. As the saying goes, "You can cut fine strips out of another man's leather." Or, in other words, let someone else have the first experience. Upon your return, if the horse has suited you so far, pretend to watch another horse in the stable and occasionally glance at the one you tried, to see if he favors any leg or appears tired out, but if the dealer sees you are watching any particular horse, he will keep touching him with the whip to make him "stand up."

At times you will come across a horse that will only drive double on one side of the pole; or, when saddled, can only be mounted on the near side.

There should be no variation in the gait, both front legs should be raised

and strike the ground in the same manner, which is also equally true with regard to the hind legs.

Always try a horse without the check-rein, as this will sometimes, if he is checked very high, almost hide a slight lameness, and it certainly makes a horse step out better.

## CHAPTER III.

### Examination of Head, Neck and Back.

Look at the top of the head for poll-evil, which is an abscess, caused by disease of the bone or from a blow. Diseases of the ear are infrequent and are noticeable as the horse shakes his head or objects to his ear being felt and objects to the collar or bridle being put on, but fortunately deafness is seldom observed in horses.

The eyes, of course, should be exactly the same and free from specks and not cloudy or whitish.

Some horses have what is called a "watch eye." It is also called a pearl eye, and the eye instead of being dark, is whitish, but I do not know that it does any particular harm.

Also in some horses part of the white of the eye is exposed and by many it is thought to indicate an ugly temper, and while this may have no special significance, it seems to me to denote a spirited, fearless disposition.

Moonblindness—this, perhaps, is the most frequent and serious disease of the eye, and may be discovered by a profuse



flow of tears and the eye is dim and cloudy, and the edge yellow. The eyelids should not be red or swollen. If the cornea has a yellowish tinge, the horse is suffering from liver disease or the yellows.

In moonblindness, the horse very often carries the head on one side, with ears erect, as though listening.

Horses with any affection of the eyes are sometimes called "buck-eyed."

Often one or both the eyes will be circled by a whitish ring, caused by a blow or bruise on the eye, but this is not at all harmful.

Pinch the nostrils together for a short time so the horse cannot breathe, and when the fingers are removed, the horse will snort, and if he blows out any thick mucuous, he probably has a cold. There should be no discharge or running from the nose.

In glanders, which is incurable, the mucuous is fetid, and streaked with blood and there are enlargements under the jaw and sometimes a bloody discharge from the nostrils, especially from the right one.

In liver disease the inside of the lips and nose, as well as the eye, is of a yellowish tinge, instead of a pale pink. If the inside of the nose is of an increased red, it shows some excitement of the system; a streaked appearance, inflam-

mation; pale ground, with patches of vivid red, subsiding fever; paleness approaching to white, debility; and dark livid color, very low condition.

The teeth should be even, so that the horse can grind his food properly. Horses whose teeth are uneven loose flesh rapidly without any apparent cause.

If the breath is offensive, he is probably suffering from indigestion or dyspepsia, or from ulcers from bit; in the former, white marks appear on the tongue and sides and top of the mouth.

A horse is said to be "parrot-mouthed" when the upper teeth project over the lower ones, and the teeth of both jaws become very long. Horses with this deformity have much trouble in grazing.

Another affection is called "lampas," the mucuous membrane swells and projects behind the upper front teeth. It is said to arise from slight disorders of the stomach, and at times interferes with mastication.

If horses "quid" their food or slobber, or show pain in eating or drinking by holding the head to one side, their teeth should be examined.

The tongue also should be carefully looked at, as sometimes it is badly cut by the bit or sore from the same cause. I once saw a horse whose tongue was almost cut through by the bit and about

three inches of it had to be removed, but after it was healed up, he seemed to get along just as well as before and suffered no inconvenience.

In distemper or strangles, usually in young horses, a swelling appears between the lower jaw bones. Also a hard lump or swelling is sometimes seen on the windpipe just below the jaw.

Look under the tongue for wounds from the bit. Occasionally in pullers, a wound will be made by a curb-bit almost through the jaw. In such cases, and others of the mouth, there is generally a flow of saliva from the mouth.

“Scald mouth”—small, hard lumps, caused by chain on the curb-bit, on the under part of the lower jaw. It seems to do no harm, but it is a blemish.

A few horses have backs that curve outwards and are called “roached-backed.” It is hard to keep a saddle from slipping forward, and their backs are liable to gall. They generally over-reach, and carry their heads low.

The neck is, especially under the mane, the place to look for mange. It also appears on the head. The throat and windpipe should be free from lumps and swelling.

A lump is often seen on the withers and is called a fistula; they also appear on the shoulders and the poll (poll-evil), and in the foot (quittor).

Fistulas are generally deep-seated and hard to cure. If the horse is strained in the back or has any kidney trouble, he will bend or droop when pressed on the back over the kidneys; or if driven and suddenly stopped, he will arch his back and throw the hind legs way under him; and when ridden, will scarcely lift his hind legs; he also turns with difficulty. Such horses are only good for very light driving, and even then are unsatisfactory. Dealers term these horses "kidney-droppers."

Every sound horse will yield more or less to pressure on the spine, but will not evince pain, as in the case of a strain. Straddling gait is another sign of kidney, or bladder trouble.

Notice if the hips are level or not, and whether one side is more prominent than the other. Not long ago I saw a horse whose left hip cap was gone, and upon inquiry, found out it had been knocked off when he was very young in rising in the stall. There was no scar or any lameness, he was a handsome horse, but only brought \$15.00 at auction.

Surfeit is a disease of the skin appearing in the Spring in fat horses, and is known by lumps about the size of a pea, covering the body.

Warts are generally seen in young

horses, and appear about the head, lips and beneath the belly, but may develop on other parts of the horse.

"Sitfasts" are sores from badly fitting harness and usually appear on the back under saddle or on the neck or under breeching.

The coat should be sleek and healthy; the horse is said to be hide-bound when the skin appears to adhere to ribs and the coat is rough and unthrifty. Often the horse that is quartered in a cold stable without blankets, or one that has received no care, will have a rough staring coat, but may be perfectly healthy.

Boils may appear on any part of the skin, but are especially common on the lower part of the limbs, on the shoulders and the back.

"Bishoping" is an operation practiced on old horses by cutting off their front teeth in order to give them the appearance of a young horse. I believe the teeth are first cut off, then holes or cups, as they are called, are drilled in them, and finally nitric acid is put into the cavities to cause the black appearance in the centre of the teeth usual in young horses. This operation should never be misleading, as the other indications of old age are very apparent and will be described under another head.

## CHAPTER V.

### Examination of Fore Legs.

When examining the fore legs, look at the horse from the side, and notice if he has a shoe-boil; that is, a sac at the point of the elbow containing fluid, caused by the heel of the shoe resting against the elbow, or from the cannon bone being very long, or the heel of shoe being too much elongated, or from the way in which the horse rests. It is unsightly, and very apt to return if removed, particularly if there are predisposing causes.

Some horses are such old stumblers that in falling they receive cuts on the nose and head. After passing your hand over the knee or other suspicious spot, to see if there is a scar or swelling, notice if it smells of liniment; or push back the hair and see if the skin is blistered or warm, indicating inflammation, and the hair over the injured part is almost always somewhat curled, but the scar may have been concealed by applications of different colored ointments or other coloring matter to suit the color of the hair.

Arched knees are those inclining outward and are good for work horses, while the reverse is called "calf-knees."

Swelled tendons can easily be discovered, as the leg is stiff (if it has not been well rubbed with liniment) and the tendons are much thicker than usual.

Sometimes a horse that has been badly foundered or improperly treated for founder, will be left very stiff in the legs, causing him to strike his ankles, which sooner or later become enlarged and callous on the inside, so that boots are necessary.

A bony enlargement or growth, usually on the inside of the fore leg, generally mid-way between the knee and pastern joint, is called a splint, and while not considered unsoundness, by many, it is best not to buy a horse thus affected, unless you are sure it is not caused by faulty confirmation or the other good points, or price overbalance this blemish.

Frequently, when a horse is run down, from whatever reason, he will "throw" a splint, which will nine times out of ten cause lameness, until it has gotten its growth, after which it may not trouble him further. Young horses often have splints, but they seldom are of a serious nature, unless on the tendons.

When you suspect a horse of hitting, put a little hoof dressing or chalk on the inside of the hoof, and if he strikes it

will leave a mark on the opposite ankle; or watch closely as he approaches you. A horse that interferes is obviously unfit for saddle, as he is liable to fall on his knees.

Interfering is generally due to faulty confirmation and the parts where the horse hits are swollen and tender. In trotters, it is seen by occasionally stumbling or unsteady gait. Sometimes one leg is a little colder than normally, and I believe this is often so in rheumatism.

In liver diseases, there is a lameness in right fore leg or shoulder. In shoulder lameness, the horse steps long with the sound leg and short with the lame leg, and the very reverse in strains of the flexor tendons.

Navicular disease is often mistaken for shoulder lameness. In the latter, the horse rests the toe on the ground, and if the leg is pulled forward, he will evince much pain. A horse is said to be "knuckled" when the pastern becomes more nearly perpendicular; it is also called "cocked" ankles, and predisposes to stumbling. Horses with erect pasterns are prone to knuckle, especially in the hind legs. Weak or sprung knees are very noticeable, as the leg inclines slightly forward and the leg will very often quiver when the horse is standing.

Wind galls are puffs on the ankles.



Sprained ankle, generally in fore legs, is occasioned by a misstep, stumbling or diseases of leg or foot. Sometimes in a slight sprain there is no lameness, but only a little soreness, but if badly sprained the joint swells and is very feverish.

Ringbone may appear in either the ankles of the front or hind legs, and is often very hard to detect, unless there be lameness. When in the fore ankle, while the horse is in action, the heel is placed on the ground first, but in the hind leg the toe strikes the ground first, as it does in a sound leg, but in both cases the ankle is held as rigid as possible. Coarse-bred, heavy horses, or those with upright joints and with small feet and high action are oftenest subjects. In well-bred horses, it usually appears in the hind ankle. The predisposing causes are high calks on the shoes and shortening the toe too much in shoeing. Grease is an affection of the heels and is easily discovered on account of a sore and by the fetid odor coming therefrom, usually in hind legs. It is most common in coarse-bred horses.

Scratches or cracks running transversely on the hollow of the heels are very troublesome in cold weather, as they are apt to open each time the horse goes out.

A horse is said to be "groggy" when there is a knuckling of fetlock joint or tottering of whole of leg, or unsteady gait in the front legs.

Neurotomy is the name of the following operation, also called "nerved" or "unnerved," which consists in cutting out the principal nerve of the leg for the purpose of destroying the sensation of foot in cases of acute lameness of that part, arising from incurable diseases, such as navicular disease. When this has been done there will be a mark of a cut some inches in length and a little below or above the pastern joint.

If you suspect this, run a pin into the skin above the coronet, and if the horse does not manifest any great degree of sensibility, set him down as having been nerved. Horses nerved may work well for years, but at other times the hoof perishes and drops off!

There will often be a scar or the hair turned back on the front ankles, caused by too little or no bedding.

## CHAPTER VI.

### Examination of Fore Leg.

The feet should be the same size and equally cool, circular and gradually increasing in size as they proceed downwards, the sole concave and the more it approaches to flatness the more tender the foot. Notice how much better a flat-footed horse travels on soft ground. The frog projects inwards and forwards, somewhat in the shape of the letter V. It should be spongy and elastic to admit of spreading of the heel. The foot if it slopes very much forward, it is a chance if it be not bordering on disease and its obliquity throwing the horse too much on his heel produces tenderness of the part and straining of the back sinew of the leg.

If the front and sides of the feet be marked with circular depressions running parallel to the coronet, it is almost certain that the horse has been foundered, in which case he is generally left stiff and sore, depending upon the severity of the attack, and the promptness of the treatment. At times, however, the horse

is left none the worse, and is as useful and supple as ever. See that the position of the feet is correct.

Club feet are those whose walls are almost upright, in which case the heels are high and the ankle joint is thrown forward and the weight of the horse is put on the toes.

Horses are said to be "pigeon-toed" when the feet turn in or out, or are not the same size, one side of the wall being higher or lower than the other. Such horses are prone to interfere and are generally very slow and "dish" when traveling,—that is, when the foot is poised in the air, it will twist to one side (outward) at each movement.

Side-bones, generally in the front feet, are often concomitant with navicular disease, contracted feet, quarter crack, ringbone, and wounds of the foot. Most often in saddle horses and horses doing fast or heavy work. The step is shorter than natural and the toe of the foot first hits the ground. The horse is stiff and sore, but improves after exercise. There is also great heat in the foot. Navicular disease, commonly called coffin-joint lameness, generally in fore feet, and thoroughbred horses, yet no class is without it. The disease is practically incurable and as the symptoms in the early stages are very obscure, it is difficult to detect. The horse may point the feet

while at rest and when put to work may take a few lame steps and then travel normally the rest of the day. Then again he may be lame for some time and after a rest over night be without signs of lameness, but it may come on again at any time. Intermittent lameness, if I may use the expression, finally becoming chronic, seems to be the best explanation possible.

Quittor in various forms is an affection of the foot taking the form of an ulcer generally appearing on the heels and quarters.

Thrush is a disease of the cleft of the frog and is readily found on account of the fetid smell emitted therefrom. It is more often to be found on the hind feet of mares and fore feet of horses and seldom causes lameness, except in old cases, where the whole frog is diseased. In the fore feet, thrush and contraction usually are found together. Contracted heels, generally in the fore feet, can be discovered as the foot has lost its circular shape and the walls from the quarters backward approach to a straight line, and the foot is very dry and hard, the parts towards the heels scaly, while fissures more or less deep, may be seen at the quarters and heels following the direction of the horn fibers. Contracted heels are often recurrent with thrush, splint,

ringbone, canker, navicular disease, corns and other diseases.

The horse with contracted feet, if he goes sound, is better than another with open but weak heels.

The horse with contracted heels while not lame except in advanced cases is usually sore in the affected feet and in the earlier stages he frequently shifts the weight from one foot to the other, as in the hind legs when "breeding spavins."

Canker is a disease of the foot, attacking the sole and the frog and generally originates from an injury. It may be detected by the offensive odor of the foot, and the thin discharge from the cleft and sides of the frog and the rotting away of the horn of the sole and frog.

Corns, generally in the front feet, and most frequent and serious in horses with flat soles and low, weak heels, the predisposing causes are high heels on the shoes, contracted heels, wide feet with low heels, high knee action on hard roads or when dry dirt or small stones collect under the shoe, but in most cases caused primarily by the shoe pressing upon the sole or leaving the shoe on too long, will often cause a slight lameness or stumbling and shoes must be reset often. Do not often occur in outside heel, as it is of a stronger construction than inside one. Corns are of a very common occurrence and are hard to get rid of, and

can be easily discovered by reason of their red color, if it is not concealed by hoof dressing or other dark coloring matter.

Leaving the shoe on too long will often cause a slight lameness or stumbling and shoes must be reset often. Do not often occur in outside heel as it is of a stronger construction than inside one. Corns are of very common occurrence and are hard to get rid of, and can be easily discovered by reason of their red color, if it is not concealed by hoof dressing or other dark coloring matter.

Wounds of the foot are usually caused by a nail or other sharp object, and more often happens to a flat-footed horse than others.

Pumiced sole. Instead of the sole being hard and firm, it is often, near the toe, inclined to crumble. Most often concomitant with founder. The sole is convex instead of concave, making the foot particularly liable to bruises.

Sand crack is a fissure or crack in the horn of the wall of the foot. They may appear on any part of the wall. When in front, they are called toe-cracks, on lateral parts of the walls, they are known as quarter-cracks. Toe-cracks are most common in the hind feet, while quarter-cracks nearly always appear in the front feet. Small feet and very large feet are most often liable. The predisposing

causes are contracted heels, and in those where the toe turns out or inside quarter turns under, heavy shoes, large nails set too far back towards the heels and such diseases as canker, quittor, grease and suppurative corns. Fast work on hard roads, jumping, blows on coronet, are accidental causes of cracks. Lameness is greater going down hill than up.

Much can be found out by looking at the shoes, if the horse over-reaches, that is, strikes the heels of the fore feet with the toes of the hind feet, the ends of the front shoe will be shortened and the shoes on the hind feet set back. If he be shod with a side-weighted shoe, he probably interferes. If shod with a bar shoe, there is something faulty about the feet. Often a horse having tender feet will be shod with such a shoe and a leather pad. Any variation in shoeing, therefore, must be viewed with suspicion.

There is no use asking a dealer why he is shod this way or that way, because he will always have a ready answer, and you will be no wiser than before, besides showing him you are "green."

The fore feet are most likely to be diseased and the hind legs are most apt to be affected.



## CHAPTER VI.

### Examination of the Hind Legs and Feet.

Many of the diseases and affections occurring in the fore legs and feet are also to be found in the hind legs and feet.

If the horse have straight hind legs, he will not have much action. The same is true of cow or "curby hocked" horses, that is when standing, the hocks are close together, inclining inward, and the feet are turned out, the ligament is apt to be sprained, which is called a curb. The hind legs, like the fore legs, should be flat. If the horse stands with his hind legs much under him, it is a sign of weak back and kidney trouble. Spavin is a disease affecting only the hock-joint. Bone spavin is to be found on the inside and in front of the joint, and is a bony enlargement, most easily discovered by looking at the hocks from in front of the horse.

"Bog spavin," so called, is found in front of the hock joint and is a soft swelling seldom causing lameness.

Blood spavin, so called, is about the same as the above, but generally covering the hock-joint on all three sides, namely,

front, inside and outside, and making the leg look rounded, called "thoroughpin." When horses are "breeding" bone spavin very often the lameness is believed to be in the hip, as there appears to be no enlargement as yet of the joint. The horse is lame on starting but after exercise he will travel better, becoming lame again after standing.

By the application of cocaine or other drugs the pain may be alleviated temporarily, causing the horse to use the affected leg, almost as in the sound state, or a strong blister around the joint will sometimes stop the lameness, great care therefore should be exercised when examining this part.

The lameness will be more apparent if the horse is ridden, as the shock on placing the foot to the ground will be greater, intensifying the pain, and therefore causing greater lameness.

Curb is a swelling below the point of the hock joint and is most common in horses with the hocks inclining forward (cow or curby hock). Capped hock, is a swelling on the point of the hock joint, caused by kicking in the stable or in harness, or from lying upon the bare floor.

Stringhalt is known by the peculiar jerky motion of the affected leg and is

most easily discovered by backing the horse, when the difference in lifting the legs will be most apparent, often both legs affected, even then very noticeable.

Bone spavin splint and ringbone are practically the same, except that they appear on different parts of the legs.

## CHAPTER VII.

### About the Wind.

How to judge of the wind is hard enough, but it is still more difficult to describe the indications, so that they will be comprehensible.

By pinching the wind pipe, thus making the horse cough, and judging by the sound of the cough is the way many rely on. If after pinching the wind-pipe, the horse gives one long, shrill cough, his wind is supposed to be good, but if his cough be short, hollow and easily excited by gently pressing the wind-pipe and frequently repeated, he is set down as having unsound lungs.

Now place the horse against the wall and hold his head up high and suddenly give him a smart punch with the fist or stick under the belly and if he gives a grunt at each blow he is what is called a "roarer"; but if after jumping from the blows he receives, you hear him "sobbing," as it were, and drawing his breath quickly, the chance is he is a "whistler." Some "roarers" will not cough at all, so either run him up hill or have him run

and stopped short and then listen if there is any impediment in the breathing.

If the horse's belly swell out and then contract equally and regularly, his wind will probaby be found to be good; but if on the inspiration the retraction of the belly and flanks appear, as it were, to stop before completed and then to be forcibly continued, the flanks being very much drawn in and the borders of the serrated muscles of ribs rendered very apparent, the horse is either absolutely broken-winded, or "touched" in the wind. Broken wind is also called "heaves"—from the manner of breathing described above—and to the experienced horseman the peculiar movement of the flanks is very apparent. The horse, however, does not always manifest the peculiar breathing unless exerted, the cough accompanying the disease is also peculiar to it; it is short, not unlike a grunt.

Frequently a quantity of shot mixed with tallow, this extraordinary as it may appear, and difficult as it is to account for physiologically, will prevent the horse from showing the usual symptoms of broken wind for some time, though obviously it cannot do the horse any permanent good, while it may injure him.

If you suspect the horse is doctored to hide the indications, give him as much water as he will drink and then run him up hill if possible, and if his wind is not

good he will puff and blow and appear very much exhausted. Riding the horse up hill as fast as possible is always the best and surest way of testing the wind.

Some horses while not broken winded will grunt, it being more apparent coming down hill, especially if he can get his head down. Wheezing is about the same as whistling, and is caused by enlarged glands or thickening of the membrane of the wind-pipe. Such horses are also said to be "thick-winded," and are left so from an attack of influenza, distemper, etc., or from improperly treating the same.

Thumps in a horse is analogous to hiccough in man. Horses with chronic coughs will generally cough after drinking cold water and in the morning, sometimes in paroxysms or only occasionally.

"High-blowing" is a habit and has nothing to do with roaring. It is a noise made by the nostrils and when the horse is put to hard exercise, the noise will cease, such a horse is called a "high-blower."

The long-necked horse predisposes to roaring and, like humans so formed, are generally weak. Extremely fat horses with short necks have good wind, but predisposed to congestion of the brain. Not long ago I saw a horse die from this cause and the coachman said "indigestion" of the brain killed him.

A horse having a circular chest generally has "thick" wind. The horse whose wind-pipe is curved generally has better wind than others. Round chested horses are said to be prone to heaves

Tracheotomy is a surgical operation by which the treachea, or wind-pipe, is opened. It is an operation that is resorted to when the throat is stopped up and admission of air to the lungs is obstructed. About six inches below the throat is the place generally cut, and the cut will have been about two inches long.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### The Color as a Guide.

In horses of equal blood, not a little seems to depend on the color, the dark chestnut is proverbially predisposed to contraction. The majority of white horses are those that have become so by age. Silver-grey generally about fourteen (14) hands, round carcassed, thin-legged with oblique pasterns, seldom sick, not fleet or capable of hard work, but good for a lady.

Iron-grey is usually larger, higher in withers, deeper and thinner in carcass and generally too long in the legs, mostly carriage horses, have more endurance than fleetness, but the feet are apt to be faulty and liable to contraction and yet not so often lame.

Dapple-grey is a handsome and better horse. Perhaps the best of all the grays are the flea-bitten greys, brownish mottled, which seem to be especially hardy and gentle.

Piebalds have no particular character, but make good circus horses.



Chestnuts, if light, generally weak and irritable; especially if there is white on them.

Dark chestnuts generally powerful in quarters, rather fine in the legs and hardy, and occasionally of a hot and unmanageable temper.

Bright bay is least valuable and apt to be balky. Dark bay, no white, and black legs, best generally, have good feet and constitution. Bay-brown not so much show and action but strength and endurance.

Black horses by many are especially esteemed, as they are showy, willing, and generally have more or less speed, although they are delicate and often have faulty feet. They are, however, usually high strung, nervous animals, having a proud disposition and stylish appearance, and as they carry the head and ears well, champ the bit, and jump around when touched with the whip, attracting attention to the elegant trappings and equipage, is all that people of a certain class desire, irrespective of the cost of new horses and doctoring.

Strawberry-roads have much the same characteristics as flea-bitten greys. They are hardy, have plenty of endurance and usually very docile and free drivers. As buck-skins, calicoes, blue-roads and others are seldom seen outside of a circus, I will not describe their peculiarities.

After all a good horse cannot be a bad color. Conformation is more important than color.

It is interesting to note the different dispositions of horses as indicated by their color. It shows that a full black horse never shies; black with white, seldom shy; bay, may or may not; gray, almost always; chestnut always.

This table was compiled during the early days of bicycles, and at that time was presumably more or less correct. A list of military horses was drawn up by an officer sometime ago with the same idea, which conforms fairly well with the above. The behavior of the white horse on beholding a red-haired girl, is not considered in the foregoing table!

## CHAPTER IX.

### Points About the Horse.

Under this head I will endeavor to point out specially good or bad points with reference to their adaptability for certain uses.

Expanded nostril is a striking feature of the blooded-horse, and the bright red nostril denotes breeding and courage.

A horse is said to be "hare-eyed" when the eyes are laterally prominent and such a horse is usually looking behind to kick.

A horse at five years of age has forty teeth, twenty-four are grinders.

Influenza often leaves a horse "touched" in the wind or "roarers."

Horses with liver trouble are languid and sleepy if left to themselves, but ginger or salt in the mouth and the use of the whip make them champ the bit.

Moonblind horses shy easily and sometimes swing around rather awkward if hitched to a four wheeler.

Horses with feet turned outward are liable to interfere and stumble and seldom have good action.

“Pigeon-toed” horses on bending the knee dishes, are predisposed to stumbling and interfering and generally very slow.

Flat-headed horses are liable to blindness.

A heavy lop-eared horse is always unsightly and frequently a slug.

The horse whose wind-pipe is curved usually have better wind than others.

Long-necked horses are generally weak and predisposed to roaring, but fat, short-necked horses have good wind, but are prone to congestion of the brain. Narrow chested horses are more subject to broken-wind, while circular chests are often indicative of thick wind. The narrow chested horses, however, being generally well bred, but predisposed to interfering.

Horses with erect pasterns are predisposed to knuckle.

Horses with shoulders well inclined forward have generally better action and safer for saddle. The back of the horse should be short and rather arched over the loins, having the tail set in rather high. The body should be deep and well ribbed up. Upright shoulder is better for harness horse.

Horses having white feet and legs, flat feet, seem to be specially liable to canker.

White hair denotes thin skin, especially in the legs and such horses are more disposed to swelled legs and cracked heels, as well as other diseases.

Horses with high withers usually have good action and speed, but are generally narrow chested.

Horses with high back bones or withers are apt to be chafed by harness or saddle and have sore backs.

In thoroughbred horses the direction of the haunch is almost straight. Cow-hocks prone to curb; so often called curby-hocks.

Ewe-necked horses are those whose necks are hollowed above and arched below.

The short horse is generally the best for all round use and possesses greater health and hardiness.

Saddle or sway-backed horses, that is somewhat hollow-backed, are liable to be weak, and get easily strained, but are easy goers.

Blooded horses are particularly liable to contraction because the foot is small and disposed to become narrow at the heel.

The easiest place to examine the beating of the heart, is immediately behind the elbow on the left or near side.

A long ear well carried is a sign of blood.

Short ribbed horses are the best, that is, the last rib and huckle bone or hip are near together.

The short quartered horse is particularly strong and denotes good jumper.

Horses with straight hind legs never have much action; the same is true of cow-hocked horses.

A full, swelling forearm characteristic of every thoroughbred.

Signs of old age are grey hairs, particularly around the eyes and mouth; thinness and hanging down of the lips; sharpness of withers; hollow back; lengthening of quarter; hollows over the eyes. Some young horses, however, have hollows over the eyes.

Never use a snaffle bit on a horse that lolls his tongue, but a bar bit.

Horses with narrow jaws are usually the ones that loll the tongue.

It is said that mares are less likely to have colic than geldings, and are certainly hardier and have greater endurance.

Generally in a team there will be one very good horse, while the other will not be so good or sound.

Firing a horse is never indulged in unless for some long continued lameness, which would not yield to the ordinary treatment.

The scars tell the tale.

Rheumatism, in the joints of the legs,

particularly if chronic, is very hard to locate and often confounded with other causes of lameness.

The pulse in a healthy horse beats about forty times in a minute, but in different horses may vary from five below or above that number. In coarse bred horses it beats less often than in thoroughbreds.

The profile of a horse is supposed by many to be indicative of temper. The roman-nosed horse is usually a good tempered, hardy beast, ready enough to feed, but not always perhaps so ready to work, but will do his duty if treated kindly. He has no extraordinary pretension to speed or blood.

On the other hand a depression across the centre of the nose generally indicates some breeding, especially if the head is small, but occasionally accompanied by a vicious uncontrollable disposition.

No surer criterion of a well bred horse than a broad angular forehead, prominent features and a short face.

Horses with little breeding have narrow foreheads and small features.

A spavined horse is stiff on starting.

In inflammation of the bowels, the symptoms are much the same as in colic, the horse rolls, paws, sweats and appears greatly excited.

Horses with coughs will cough most in the morning and after drinking water.

I have heard that a horse's spirit may be judged by lifting the tail, and there seems to be some truth in it, as for the spirited proud horse, considerable strength is necessary, while the old or spiritless horse without ambition, the tail is easily raised. This is, however, a somewhat dangerous pastime.

A horse that carries his tail high, especially if docked, is seldom mean, so it is with the horse carrying the ears forward, is usually well bred and "honest"; while the mean-dispositioned horse will scarcely raise his tail at all. Old horses also carry the tail close to the body very generally.

The front feet and hind legs are most often diseased.

Notice how a horse is shod, as oftentimes this will disclose faults.

Polo ponies, on account of the twisting about they get in the game, have frequently shoulder lameness. sprained backs, etc.

A good judge of a horse will never ask questions, but rely on his knowledge of the horse for his conclusion.

It is very hard to lay down a rule for establishing the value of horses, for a horse unsuited for one purpose may be well adapted for another.

For instance, a badly scarred horse,



perfectly sound, would not bring much as a carriage horse, but might be "just the thing" for farm work.

The saddle is hard to keep from slipping back on what is called a "shad-bellied" horse. He is also described as having a sloping barrel.

Cowboys refer to vicious horses as being "smoky."

Branded horses sell for less than those free from such marks, and many will not buy them at any price. As they are Western horses, broken and roughly handled by cowboys, many of them are tricky, mean, and untrustworthy; and as I heard a man say, he would not buy a mustang because he had to break him every time he "hitched him up!"

## CHAPTER X.

### Tricks of the Trade.

In no business, perhaps, are there as many tricks and devices used to take in the unwary. It has been said, and with a good deal of truth, too, that one brother will cheat another when selling a horse, and indeed no one seems adverse to disposing of an unsound horse to the unsuspecting at the price of a sound one. The custom then appears in horse trading to be "do your neighbor or he will do you!"

If I were to write about the tricks and methods employed by low dealers and others, I could fill a large volume, so I must confine myself to the more important and most frequently used devices.

In certain Sunday newspapers are many seductive advertisements, stating that on account of the death of the owner, the heirs are selling for quarter value the contents of his stable, or it may read, "lady going abroad," "business reverses," "giving up driving," or a dozen other fictitious reasons, but in almost every case the proprietor of such a stable is a dealer, whose face is seen at every

auction, and who generally makes you pay dearly for your experience, in spite of the fact that the advertisement may state "No cash offers refused in order to effect immediate sales."

These fellows have liveried men in the stables and seem to be exceedingly prosperous. They generally purchase very cheap horse goods and harness which are gotten up showily but wear very poorly.

A case came under my notice not long ago, where the victim desired to purchase an English saddle and bridle, so he hastened to one of these stables, fearing he would lose a rare opportunity to get what he wanted at very attractive figures. The man in charge showed him a very cheap outfit and had the effrontery to ask \$45, and appeared entirely indifferent whether he sold the saddle and bridle or not. At all events, after haggling for some time (the purchaser was a Yankee), he bought them for \$17.50, and even then he paid too much by about \$9. Of course they move around frequently and change the wording of the advertisement often.

A friend of the writer's bought at auction, not long ago, what appeared to him a fine work horse for \$75, having the usual guarantee as to soundness, wind and so forth, and forty-eight hours trial. He worked the animal moderately and was much pleased with his purchase, when on the third day, or shortly after

the expiration of the warranty, the horse dropped dead in harness, and such was his low condition that decomposition set in almost immediately, although the day was cold. He had been sufficiently drugged to "keep him over" the two days.

I have in mind another gentleman who bought a horse "at the halter" for a mere song, that is, without a trial of any sort, which he intended to use as a family horse. He rode him home and gave orders to have him harnessed to the carriage the next morning. As soon as he had been harnessed he lay down (this sort of horse is called a "jibber"), and coaxing and persuasion were all to no avail. He refused to get up until the harness had been removed. Of course he was taken back to the dealer, who said blandly, "Bless your heart, did I not say yesterday that it would do you good to see that horse drive?"

However, he was a good saddler and the new owner disposed of him for that purpose. The excuse the dealer gave for not having him harnessed, was that all his harness was in use.

A common trick is, if you appear very anxious to buy a certain horse, but do not wish to pay quite as much as the dealer asks, to have a confederate on hand who purchases the horse and then tries to sell him back to you for a few

dollars more, or who is willing to take him if you do not. Again, if you have tried one of his horses and apparently like him, and promise to let him know the next day if you want him or not, he will have a man come in while you are talking and ask if the horse is ready to be taken away to so-and-so who wants to try him for a few days, and naturally this ruse makes you give an answer at once.

If you seem to him especially green or anxious to get a particular horse, he will pay little attention to you, making out he does not really care to sell this horse, as "he is the horse all my lady customers insist upon driving," and ask you two or three times as much as he would gladly take, and if you make him a counter offer in excess of his real price, he is too much of a philosopher to show any delight, but laughs at you, or perhaps offers to "split the difference." They are keen judges of human nature and very clever salesmen and profit by it accordingly.

On the other hand, if you try to dispose of a horse to him, he will not care to buy any more, as "the business has all peted out, since the introduction of trolley cars and bicycles," or perhaps he will say, "he has twenty or thirty horses laughing out the door at me now!" or that it is not a horse that could be readily disposed of, and be kind enough to point out every blemish real or imaginary.

Trading or exchanging horses is also very profitable to the dealers, as they will, nine times out of ten, allow you very little for your horse, although he may be a good animal, and ask a big price for their's, or allowing you apparently a fair price.

If a horse has a quarter crack they will fill the opening with rosin and then paint the hoofs either with ointment or foot dressing, so that the fissure is almost obscured. They will use dye or axle grease to change the color of white hairs, or to make a horse a solid color.

I have heard that in order to give a horse high knee action they will blindfold them and check up their heads very high, then drive them over uneven ground, so that the horse must step high for fear of stumbling. Also they will ride him over bundles of straw, thus making the horse step very high.

After several lessons and plenty of ginger, they may appear on trial, as very high steppers, but soon lose the high action.

I knew a person who sent in his mare, a young, sound, well bred, high spirited animal, to a certain sale taking place after the horse show in New York City, and as he then had perfect confidence in dealers, he did not bother to attend the sale or have any one to represent him,

and as he received no word from the firm who had the sale, wrote them inquiring as to the disposition of his mare, and, to his utter astonishment, received a reply to the effect that as the horse was not sold at the sale, they would have to charge the usual commission, which was \$15, as the "expenses were very heavy," and twenty-three days board at \$1 a day, making \$38 in all.

The mare came back almost irreparably wrecked in health and had the appearance of a horse who had plenty of work and no feed.

## CHAPTER XI.

### Legal Points on Buying a Horse.

The foregoing chapters deal entirely with the purely physical and material aspect of a horse sale, and this volume would scarcely be completed unless some references were made to the strictly legal side of the matter.

The sale and purchase of a horse may well involve as many and as complicated phases of law as the sale of any other chattel, and it is a matter of record that more law suits grow out of horse sales than from the sales of any other chattels or things with which we have to do in our every day lives. The reason for this is a very simple one, the horse is very seldom sold except on certain representations or warranties on the part of the vendor, and it is when these representations are false, or there is a breach of warranty, that the trouble arises.

When a vendor makes a simple statement that he will sell a horse for a certain figure, and the vendee pays the price specified, there is no warranty except that of ownership, the vendor is presumed to have the right to sell, but the vendee buys entirely at his own risk as



to the value or qualities of the horse purchased. Should the horse prove valueless, he has no redress.

As a general rule, however, when one person is desirous of selling a horse to another, he is very apt to make statements in regard to the animal, the effect of which will be to induce a sale, and when these statements are material, and are the basis on which the horse is sold, then any falsehood or misrepresentation is actionable, and the vendee has his remedy at law.

It is not the purpose of the writer to enter into a lengthy treatise on the subject of the law governing horse sales, for to go properly into the subject would require a whole volume.

The present chapter will be confined entirely to a very brief synopsis of the law as regards breach of warranty and fraudulent representations.

First as regards a warranty. The representations upon which the warranty is founded can be made at any time during the negotiations, but at the time of closing the bargain it must be evident that these representations entered into the bargain and were one inducement to it.

Again. Since a warranty is considered at law a distinct contract, it follows that a warranty made after the bargain has been closed, must have a new and dis-

tinct consideration. If, therefore, A sells a horse to B and at some time subsequent B asks A to warrant the horse, and A does so, this warranty is absolutely valueless, unless B pays A something for it.

A warranty may be expressed in words or signs, written or spoken, may be limited as to time or to specified vices or diseases, or in any other manner, the only question being the intent of the parties, and this is a matter of proof.

In purchasing a horse which is warranted, the vendee should by all means secure some memorandum in writing to that effect signed by the vendor, not because it is absolutely necessary, but because it is so easily susceptible of proof, and because it will go a long way in keeping him out of court. No one will willingly enter into litigation when he knows that the evidence of his own signature will be used against him.

In buying a horse from an agent, the vendee should remember that unless he is sure that he can prove the agent's authority to warrant the animal, that a warranty though given may be valueless; there are certain cases in which this authority will be implied, for a principal as bound by the acts of his agent, which he knowingly allows him to commit as such, and if, therefore, the vendee can prove that the warranty given by the agent was with full knowledge and consent of the

principal, he can hold him thereon. The safest course would be to get the warranty from the principal direct.

A breach of warranty does not of necessity involve fraud, in other words, it is entirely immaterial whether the vendor knew of the existence of the disease or vice, or whatever it may be, he warranted against. A vendor may, in absolute good faith, warrant a horse, and still be liable, if there prove to be a breach of warranty. His good faith in the matter is absolutely no defense.

In a very recent case in the Supreme Court of New Jersey, decided November 9, 1903, the Court said:

"It is safe to assert that no case can be found in this country, or in England, where the declaration courts upon the breach of an absolute contract of warranty, in which it has been held that plaintiff must prove the seller's (knowledge of the vendor).

A general warranty does not usually extend to defects apparent on simple inspection, requiring no skill to determine them, nor to defects known to the buyer, for the reason that the warranty could not have operated as an inducement to the sale. In the purchase of a horse, therefore, which has something apparently the matter with it, one which perhaps may be considered only temporary, the vendee should be very careful to

have the warranty specifically cover the point, otherwise he may meet with the above as a defence when he brings his action.

The second cause for litigation growing out of horse sales is fraud.

"Fraud is every kind of artifice employed by one person for the purpose of deceiving another.

The chief essentials of actionable fraud are as follows:—

1. The false representations or artifice.
2. The knowledge (screnter) of the vendor.
3. The deception of the vendee.
4. Party deceived must be damaged.

In other words, there must be first a false statement or representation. The vendor must have full knowledge of its falsehood (when the law will imply an intent to deceive), the vendor must rely on the truth of the same, and in so relying suffer damage.

If a vendor makes a representation which he does not know to be true, such as to say that a horse is capable of trotting a mile in a certain time, when he has absolutely no means of knowing whether it can or cannot, his ignorance is wilful, and will not excuse him. But an honest statement of opinion given purely as such is not actionable.

Again, if a statement or representation is made respecting a horse, and the

vendee puts it to the test, tries the horse, or has others try it for him, has a veterinary examine it, etc., showing that he has placed no faith in the representations, then he cannot set up his deception by the vendor, and has no action if he afterwards purchase the animal, and finds he has made a bad bargain.

Lastly. He must suffer damages for it, it is an old maxim that works both ways—"Fraud without damage and damage without fraud, gives no cause of action."

In conclusion, somewhat should be said as to the course to be taken by the party injured by fraud. As a general rule, the buyer will, on discovery of his injury, have a right to rescind the contract, return, or offer to return, the animal, and recover the amount paid. This he must do within a reasonable time. In case of breach of warranty he need not return, or offer to return, the horse, but may sue for damage on breach of the contract of warranty, and the measure of damage will be the difference between the real value established by evidence and the price paid.

In one case, fraud, the action is in tort, and in the other, for breach of warranty, on contract.

In any case, however, the wisest course for a person who finds he has been injured in any way, is to go at once to a reputable attorney for advice. The

laws of the various States differ to a certain extent, and the scope of the present work is too limited to admit of a full treatment of the various procedures at law. No layman can moreover manage his own case without grave risk of failure, and of throwing away good money after bad. Get the best legal advice attainable, and act on it at once.

The purpose of this chapter is merely to point out in a general way the chief causes of litigation, so that they may be if possible avoided, and to so direct the reader that he may, if injured in spite of using every care, be in a good position to seek redress at law. The best advice that the writer can give is this: Be as careful as possible with whom you are dealing, have every phase of the contract mutually understood, and have the contract of warranty in writing if possible. The more care taken before the purchase, the less chance there will be for litigation afterwards.



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